Statement-II

District-wise number of Gram Panchayats which do not have extra departmental branch post offices in Bihar

S. No.	Name of District	Total number of village panchayat where postal facilities have not been provided
1.	Saran	38
2.	Vaishali	105
3.	Bhojpur	40
4.	Buxar	16
5.	Gaya	129
6.	Nawada	33
7.	Johanabad	42
8.	Nalanda	26
9.	Bhagalpur	56
10.	Banka	46
11.	Patna	103
12.	Begusarai	36
13.	Khagaria	16
14.	Darbhanga	69
15.	East Champaran	130
16.	West Champaran	42
17.	Madhubani	69
18.	Munger	55
19.	Lakhisarai	16
20.	Sheikhpura	17
21.	Jamui	44
22.	Muzaffarpur	53
23.	Araria	49
24.	Katihar	51
25.	Kishanganj	33
26.	Purnea	71
27.	Saharsa	25
28.	Madhepura	25
29.	Suapul	24
30.	Siwan	18
31.	Gopalganj	60
32.	Sitamarhi	40
33.	Sheohar	13
34.	Samastipur	44
35.	Dumka	90
36.	Pakur	25
37.	B. Deoghar	74
38.	Godda	74
39.	Sahebganj	125
40.	Aurangabad	81
41.	Palamu	123
42.	Garhwa	36
43.	Hazaribagh	82
44.	Kodarma	11
45.	Chatra	20
46.	Giridiha	66
47.	W. Singhbhum	147
48.	E. Singhbhum	42
49.	Ranchi	125
50.	Gumla	82
51.	Lohardaga	32
52.	Dhanbad	69
53.	Bodaro	82
54.	Rohtas	107
55.	Babhua	80
	TOTAL:	3207

उत्तर प्रदेश के अल्मोड़ा जिले में दूरसंचार नेटवर्क का विकास

3340. **श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि अल्मोड़ा जिले के बासोट, तया, सीम और कोटा गिवाई डाक-घरों में टेलीफोन सुविधा नहीं है;

(ख) इसके क्या कारण है और इन डाक-घरों में यह सुविधा कब तक प्रदान कर दिए जाने की संभावना है; और

(ग) अल्मोड़ा जिले में टेलीफोन नेटवर्क के विकास हेतु सरकार द्वारा कौन-कौन से कदम उठाए जाने का विचार है?

संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा): (क) बासोट में, एक टेलीफोन नं॰ 8427 भीकिया सेन एक्सचेंज से पहले से ही कार्यरत है।

(ख) चालू वित्त वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान तया, सीमा, कोटागिवई ग्रामों को ग्रामीण सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन (वी पी टी) प्रदान करने की योजना बनाई गई है।

(ग) अल्मोड़ा दूरसंचार डिवीजन में स्विचिंग और संचारण उपस्कर के उन्नयन हेतु लगातार मॉनिटरिंग की जा रही है तथा योजना बनाई गई है।

Criteria for Upgrading of Telecom System

3341. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed in upgrading the telecom system in the country; and

(b) the reasons for choosing Hassan for this purpose on a priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Upgradation with expansion of telephone system is based on demand for telephone connections and waiting list. Upgradation is also done for obsolescence of existing technology and life expiry of existing system.

(b) The above criteria is applicable for all the places in the country including Hassan.

Alternate Technology for Rural Telecommunication

3342. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have come to the conclusion that Multi Access Rural Radio System (MARR) is not the right technology to provide village public telephones;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of alternate technology proposed to be adopted for rural telecommunications?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) At present, the Multi Access Rural Radio Technology is still suitable for providing VPYs in rural areas.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Irregularities Committed in the Department of Posts

3343. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has come under criticism of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India for the massive irregularities in the purchase of equipments like the telecommunications; and

(b) if so, the details of the irregularities that were committed in the purchase of equipments and the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) The Department has received the report of the CAG during the year 1997 in which the CAG has made certain observations in the review conducted on the satellite Money Order Service and Multipurpose counter machines. The report is under examination for furnishing action taken notes.

"Telephone Bill Ne Pak Agenton Kee Sakriyata Kee Pol Kholee"

3344. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government have been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Telephone Bill ne pak agenton kee sakriyata kee pol kholee" which appeared in the Rashtriya Sahara dated the 28th March, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the reaction of Government; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to check and stop these activities?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes Sir.